

Staffordshire Hoard Conservation Professional Placements

Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery and Stoke Potteries Museum are seeking expressions of interest for conservation professional placements who wish to take advantage of a unique professional development opportunity through contributing to the conservation of the Staffordshire Hoard.

The Hoard

The Staffordshire Hoard represents the most significant archaeological find ever uncovered in the West Midlands region. Since the public disclosure of the find in September 2009 there has been an unprecedented level of public and media interest in the Hoard. There is also the academic communities who have specific and significant expectations in relation to establishing a research agenda around the Hoard. Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery and the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent are the Acquiring Partners and understand the need to address the varied agendas and expectations that have arisen since the discovery and acquisition of the Hoard.

The first and most important step is to conserve the Hoard so that it is materially stable thereby allowing the effective investigation of the material by scientists, archaeologists and historians. This call is part of the Acquiring Partners strategy to meet their responsibilities in this area and how they will ensure that the democratic and open approach that has typified the handling of this most important of finds is maintained throughout the process of conservation.

What is in the Hoard?

Following initial assessment the Hoard was found to contain 97 sword pommels (25% of the sword pommels are of a cloisonné design with 60% constructed from fine filigree), 354 sword and dagger hilt fittings, 9 pyramids, 4 pommel rings, 2 buttons and a large amount of fragments. The Hoard totals 5.094 kilos of gold, 1.442 kilos of silver including approximately 3,500 cloisonné garnets (51 loose) and a large number of fragments some of which are consistent with those found on helmets of this period. In total the Hoard contains 3,490 pieces/fragments and has no comparator in terms of content and quantity in the UK or mainland Europe.

Conservation Professional placement

The Hoard conservation project is able to offer four, two week placements a year, from September 2010-September 2012.

Conservation professionals with specific skills sets in the conservation of metalwork, archaeological conservation and Anglo-Saxon metalwork are being sought to work with the Hoard conservation team.

It is hoped that the invited conservator will be able to inform and enhance the conservation work. They will work with the conservation team to help expand their conservation knowledge on specific aspects of the conservation, construction and historical information. The invited conservator will also be expected to carry out written and photographic documentation and practical conservation work.

An aim of the project is to engage with the public and participants may be asked to contribute to ongoing public engagement activity.

Time Scale

- The conservation project has funding for two years and it is hoped that the conservation team will be in place by September.
- It is hoped to offer four, two week placements per year, one week placements will be considered.

Funding

- Funding for one/two week placements is available to cover accommodation and subsistence only (as specified by Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery)
- It is hoped to offer four two week placements per year.

Filming

- National Geographic are producing three hour long programmes on the hoard, the second programme is on the conservation and research of the Hoard. Participating conservators will be expected to participate in filming if requested to do so.

Application

If you are interested in participating please submit a maximum of two sides of A4 (on the form provided) containing your contact details, specialist area and what experience and support you can offer to the conservation team and what you hope to gain out of the experience.

Please indicate how long a placement you would like and when you would like the placement.

The Deadline: 30th of July 2010

Selection

The successful applicant will be selected by the core Conservation Advisory Panel , dependant on the number of applicants you may be contacted for further information and informal conversations.

It is hoped that the participants will be informed by the end of September 2010.

Please submit your application to:

Deborah Cane
Hoard Conservation Project Leader
Deborah_Cane@birmingham.gov.uk

Staffordshire Hoard Conservation Project
Professional Conservation Placement Form

The application should be no longer than two sides of A4

Name	
Contact details	
Conservation Specialism	
Why you would like to participate	
What you can bring to the project	
What you hope to gain from the project	
Length of placement	
Preferred dates of placement	
Please return this form and one reference to	Deborah Cane Staffordshire Hoard Conservation Project Collections Care & Conservation Department Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery Chamberlain Square Birmingham B3 3DH UK 0121 303 9080